

extracts from recorded conversations in "Spanish" (bastard Spanish-English) ring true, though some have the forced artificiality of unskilled social-work interviews. One of the most interesting shows how a Puerto Rican woman in her mid-thirties is becoming geared to life in New York:

In this country people are nice to old people. but in Puerto Rico old people are more respected, I never argued with my mother in Puerto Rico. If she had a reason or no, I keep quiet. If my father said not to go to a movie, I didn't discute (argue) that with him. I didn't go. No here. The children are more free. Tommy, when I say "do that", and he don't want to and he explains me why, I don't mind that. I think it is better for him. . . . You know, we didn't do that, but it was not good inside.

There speaks the immigrant who has been able to sift gold from dross in the new environment.

For the reader whose knowledge of New York is limited to hotels, Broadway and even Greenwich Village, this book is more than a glimpse into an East side slum. It gives the minutiae of life—intimate, detailed and often surprising—about coloured immigrants, and it should help more privileged citizens to understand their behaviour. It may even help, despite the jargon, to explain Notting Hill to Kensington.

B. S. BOSANQUET

POPULATION

Benjamin, B. *Elements of Vital Statistics*. London, 1959. Allen and Unwin. Pp. 352. Price 56s.

Barclay, George W. *Techniques of Population Analysis*. New York, 1958. Wiley, (London, Chapman and Hall.) Pp. xiii + 311. Price 38s.

POPULATION STATISTICS naturally play an important part in eugenics, and students of this "inter-disciplinary" subject will not always be content to leave demographic pronouncements to the experts but will wish sometimes to analyse matters for themselves. Although the literature on the results of inquiries into population is extremely voluminous, it happens that textbooks confining themselves to teaching the methods of inquiry are rather rare. In the English language, the available material has hitherto been mainly actuarial in character and on this account specialized—although

only mildly so. Both of these two new books are directed to particular audiences and deal with some aspects of the subject more fully than others; nevertheless they add considerably to the literature and will be welcomed for the new approaches that they bring.

Dr. Benjamin's book has been written for the benefit of medical officers of health, administrators of welfare services of all kinds, and other social and public health workers whose decisions depend on statistical indices, in order to help them fully to understand the implications of those indices. About two-thirds of his text is devoted to the analysis of morbidity and disability statistics and comprises a very thorough and enlightening account that should be of great service to its readers. He is the successor in this work to Sir Arthur Newsholme, whose well-known book of the same title was first published in 1889 and rewritten by him in 1923. Since the time of that second version, the collection of information about particular illnesses and about sickness generally through hospitals and general practitioners and by means of surveys has undergone rapid developments, and relatively little of the 1923 text has relevance to-day. Dr. Benjamin has, therefore, created an almost entirely new book.

The remainder of *Elements of Vital Statistics* is given over to demography, and includes chapters on censuses and vital registration and on mortality and fertility. As befits the needs of the intended audience, these subjects are treated less fully than disability—apart from the topic of mortality, to which special attention is naturally desirable. Even so, the approach to these subjects is by no means over-simplified and the retention of the word "elements" in the title can be described only as a piece of modesty on the author's part.

Dr. Barclay's book is designed more as an introduction to the subject of demography for those who are going to perform as well as use the results of population analysis, and he seems to have had in mind the needs of beginners the world over. His illustrations are drawn from the data of many countries, and so give a welcome breadth of view, although they do not make the techniques of analysis that he describes any more general in their application.

In this his examples are in contrast to those of Dr. Benjamin, which are restricted to British and North American statistics. This variation of approach is entirely consistent with the different purposes of the two works, for Dr. Barclay is often dealing with basic elements such as birth-rates and death-rates, for which information is now available over a large part of the globe, whereas Dr. Benjamin is concerned principally with forms of disability data that are relevant only to the countries he discusses.

Demography is a broadly spreading subject with many branches rather than a deep one with complex roots, and in spite of certain disparities the two books have a number of features in common. Both devote a chapter to the life table and include reference to the construction of abridged tables of this kind. Both discuss the characteristics of most aspects of mortality and fertility studies, with copious references to work of specialists in these fields. There is also common ground in what is left out: both omit any detailed reference to marriage data, to complex fertility analysis and to the processes of population projection. But Dr. Barclay has consistently assumed a lower level of sophistication among his readers, and this is illustrated by the amount of space he has given to spelling out the elements of such processes as the calculation of ratios and rates and the use of logarithms. He also has a useful section on errors and their detection. Even so, he does not confine his observations to the simplest matters, and with the help of many footnotes carries the reader a fair way into the more developed areas of the subject. He deals at some length with population growth and distribution and with manpower and working activities, and here enters a region that is very appropriate for student demographers but which Dr. Benjamin has rightly judged to be of limited interest to public health workers.

The stage has not yet been reached—no doubt it will be one day—when the market is overstocked with books of instruction in demographic method. These new works should therefore both satisfy the groups of persons for whom they are designed and be of use to many others as well.

P. R. C.

Huxley, Aldous. *Brave New World Revisited*. London, 1959. Chatto and Windus. Pp. 164. Price 12s. 6d.

THIS BOOK provides further evidence that its writer deserves to be regarded as the greatest living diagnostician of the social and individual malaises which afflict the civilization of the twentieth century. The clarity of his writing and the lucidity of his thought make the perusal of such a book a real pleasure: if one pauses to read again some pregnant passage, it is not because there is anything obscure about it, but that one finds again and again so much to reflect upon in these pellucid sentences. Whereas *Brave New World* was couched in a quasi-fictional form, this sequel to it is a sober, objective discussion of the major problems which obsess the world to-day. Chief among these of course is population pressure, and in treating of this Aldous Huxley admits to feeling even less optimistic than when twenty-seven years ago he wrote *Brave New World*. He traces a causative connection between over-population and communism, for as scarcity of food and raw materials imposes economic stringency, this leads in turn to unrest and insecurity, which governments must be impelled to combat by central control and a hypertrophied system of planning. Permanent crisis as has been evident from war-time experience in democratic countries, leads to far-reaching control of everything and everybody, and when such a system is firmly riveted to any culture, that culture is not far removed from a totalitarian regime. The great enemy of human progress which lurks in the blind biological forces which impel mankind to multiply itself beyond the limits of its resources, finds itself allied with the powerful trend towards organization and concentration of economic and social power, fostered alike by science and technology. The dehumanizing effects of over-population are reinforced by over-organization, and here Huxley refers with reason to the remarkable study of William Whyte in the U.S.A., which appeared in 1957 under the title of *The Organization Man*. Over-population and over-organization must tend to produce a progressive dehumanization of man, in which the individual person becomes atomized and deprived of any sense of com-